

Arbor Day: Week of April 21-26, 2008

Carmel celebrated its 20th annual Arbor Day at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th at West Park, 2700 W. 116th Street. The day began with a volunteer planting demonstration at 8:30 a.m. followed by a planting at 9:00 a.m. and the Arbor Day Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

The Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation Department, Citizens for Greenspace (non-profit), the City of Carmel's Urban Forestry Committee, along with the Carmel Boy and Girl Scouts all partnered together for the 2008 Arbor Day Celebration Tree Planting. Last year 250 trees were planted in the newly constructed 161-acre Central Park. As part of this year's celebration 200 trees were planted by volunteers in the center of West Park to continue park beautification efforts.

More than 1,000 volunteers from the community helped with the planting, which was done throughout the week of April 21st and on the morning of April 26th.

"The Arbor Day Celebration and planting is a wonderful way to bring together residents and their children in Carmel parks, but it also benefits the community for decades to come by increasing the tree canopy," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

The Donna Manlove Excellence in Urban Forestry Award and the Carmel Commercial Beautification Award were presented during the Arbor Day ceremony to Red Robin International, Inc at the Michigan Road store location and George Ohmer a teacher at Carmel High School. The City of Carmel received its 14th consecutive annual Tree City USA and 12th consecutive Tree Growth Award. The ceremony featured the reading of the official Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Brainard.

The Tree City USA program is designed to recognize communities that effectively manage their public tree resources and encourage the implementation of community tree management. Carmel has been a Tree City USA since 1994, and has been awarded 12 Tree Growth Awards for special projects from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"The Arbor Day Proclamation and ceremony help remind Carmel citizens of our commitment to urban forestry and to the great importance of trees to the community as a whole," expressed Scott Brewer, Carmel's City Forester.

Sponsors of Carmel's Arbor Day Celebration include: Duke Energy, Express Graphics, Gaylor Inc., Schmidt Architects, Will Wright Building Corp., Williams Architects & JJR, Woody Warehouse, Blue Grass Farms, Custom Cast Stone, Musselman Farms, Nelson & Frankenberger, Schneider Corporation, Vine & Branch, and the Hagerman Group.

The ceremonies and tree planting were filmed and will be shown on Carmel's Government Cable Channel 16 during the month of May.

For more information about volunteering and sponsorships for the future, please contact the Parks Department at (317) 571-2486.